

CLAIMS

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1. A method of copying items implemented in a computer, the method comprising  
creating a process if an item to be copied is a directory; and  
copying the item if the item is a file.
2. The method of Claim 1 further comprising:  
the process performing the act of creating or copying with another item in  
the directory.
3. The method of Claim 1 further comprising, after the copying:  
repeating the act of creating or copying with another item.
4. The method of Claim 1 further comprising, prior to the creating:  
comparing a current number of processes started for copying with a limit;  
and  
waiting if the current number is greater than or equal to the limit.
5. The method of Claim 1 further comprising, prior to the copying:  
increasing from a default limit on a resource to a maximum limit for the  
resource.
6. The method of Claim 5 wherein:  
the resource is number of open files.

- the resource is file size.

- the resource is memory.

- the memory is organized as a stack.

- the memory is organized as a heap.

- transferring data from the file into a temporary buffer;

- invoking a direct memory access (DMA) process for making a copy from buffer.

- checking if the item is a link to itself; and

- performing said copying only if the item is not a link to itself.

- the checking includes a string comparison operation.

14. The method of Claim 1 further comprising, during the copying:

sending an email message if a resource at a destination is full.

15. The method of Claim 14 further comprising, during the copying:  
waiting to be restarted subsequent to sending the email message.

16. The method of Claim 15 wherein said waiting comprises:  
sending a signal to self to suspend execution.

17. The method of Claim 14 further comprising, during the copying:  
recopying said file from beginning, on being restarted.

18. The method of Claim 14 further comprising:  
identifying an email address from a password file based on an identity of a  
user that started the process of performing the creating or copying.

19. The method of Claim 1 wherein:  
said creating is performed only if said directory is not a current directory  
and not a parent directory.

20. A method of copying files implemented in a computer, the method comprising:  
increasing from a default limit on a resource to a maximum limit for the  
resource; and  
copying a file.

21. The method of Claim 20 wherein:  
said resource is one of (number of open files, file size, and memory).

22. A method of copying files implemented in a computer, the method comprising:

transferring data from the file into a temporary buffer;

5 locking the temporary buffer; and

invoking a direct memory access (DMA) process for making a copy from  
the temporary buffer.

23. The method of Claim 22 further comprising, prior to the transferring:

10 checking if the file is a link to itself; and

performing said copying only if the file is not a link to itself.

24. A method of copying files implemented in a computer, the method comprising:

copying a file; and

15 sending an email message if a resource at a destination is full.

25. The method of Claim 24 further comprising:

waiting to be restarted subsequent to sending the email message.

20 26. The method of Claim 24 further comprising:

identifying an email address from a password file based on an identity of a  
user that started the copying.

27. A method of copying files, the method comprising:

25 starting a process for copying a file; and

receiving an email message if a resource at a destination is full.

28. The method of Claim 27 further comprising:
- 5 and
- changing the resources at the destination in response to the email message;
- restarting the process.
29. An apparatus for copying items, the apparatus comprising
- 10 means for creating a process if an item to be copied is a directory; and
- means for copying the item if the item is a file.
30. The apparatus of Claim 29 further comprising:
- means for sending an email message if a destination disk is full.
- 15 31. The apparatus of Claim 29 further comprising:
- means for increasing a limit on a resource to maximum.
32. The apparatus of Claim 29 wherein said means for copying comprises:
- 20 means for using a temporary buffer; and
- means for using direct memory access (DMA).
33. The apparatus of Claim 29 further comprising:
- means for checking if the item is a link to itself.
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